

tone, the untarnished character of its editor, your great interest in Sunday school work, your orthodox sermons against Darwinism and higher criticism, your tenacious stand for prohibition, your espousal for woman suffrage, your unceasing labor for national world peace, your opposition to profiteering, your intense interest in moral reforms of various kinds, including your contention for a National Bulletin, makes you the grand champion of democracy, the ideal presidential candidate for 1924.

W. H. Holliday, Wyoming.—The election of President Harding, by such an overwhelming majority and without any promise of sustaining moral or reformatory legislation already the law, is, in a manner, bewildering to many as to the real attitude of millions of citizens on such important legislation; it is probable that the pendulum has swung so far to one side that the return will be more precipitate than the reactionary elements in politics now imagine.

Human nature seems to be so ordered that reforms will always be as necessary to constantly fight for better conditions, morally and otherwise for the welfare of the people.

I know of no publication that appeals more intelligently to the public mind on moral questions and questions of public policy than The Commoner under its present editorial management.

"WHEN BRYAN SPEAKS"

William Jennings Bryan is to speak in the city this evening and all Bloomington will be out to hear him. Mr. Bryan's appearance always makes it necessary to secure the biggest hall a town possesses in order to accommodate the throngs of people who desire to hear the world's premier orator. The Second Presbyterian church has the largest auditorium in the county and its capacity will undoubtedly be taxed when Mr. Bryan steps upon the platform tonight.

The subject of the address is "Brute or Brother" and it is heralded as among the best he has delivered in his long career. Some venture to declare that it rivals the famous "Prince of Peace." Be that as it may, in this lecture, Mr. Bryan finds a convenient vehicle for making observations on the principal questions of the day. Whatever his subject, the people are always glad to listen to William Jennings Bryan, America's grand and beloved Commoner.

It is now more than a quarter of a century since Mr. Bryan sprang into national prominence by winning a presidential nomination through the power of his marvelous oratory. Since then he has been the central figure of three campaigns and has been a storm center in three Democratic conventions. He has held the high office of Secretary of State. He has traveled around the globe. In his own country he is the best known of all our public men, and he has a larger personal acquaintance throughout the nation than any other leader. He has addressed more human beings than any other man that ever lived. He lives simply and this with his splendid physique enables him to withstand the wear and tear of constant speaking and traveling.

No man in public life has ever had more zealous admirers on the one hand and implacable opponents on the other. They called him a radical firebrand in 1896, and yet he has lived to see the triumph of many of his ideas. He has seen the enactment into law of the measures he advocated when it was unpopular to do so. Direct election of senators, the income tax, woman suffrage, and prohibition—they are all here. Mr. Bryan was too far in advance of the movement to receive timely recognition by an appreciative electorate.

He was also a pioneer in the peace movement for that has been the cause nearest his heart. Yet he did not hesitate to don the soldier's uniform during the Spanish-American war. While in charge of the state department his greatest achievement for his country and the world was the negotiation of thirty arbitration treaties. The underlying principles of these treaties will be found incorporated in whatever final settlement emerges from the terrible struggle just ended, whether it shall be known as a Wilson league or a Harding association, or by some other name.

Mr. Bryan has survived all political defeats and is now firmly established in the regard of his countrymen of every shade of opinion. There are those who disagree with his judgments but no one any longer questions his absolute sincerity. He is an acknowledged force for good in the land. Seemingly tireless he continues year after year and season after season to go out among the people with his views on pending

problems, and these audiences of plain, intelligent Americans count it a privilege to sit beneath the spell of the Bryan eloquence and the Bryan fervor.

He is no longer the Bryan of '96, slim and boyish looking with the wavy black hair. His figure is more rotund, the face is lined, but the old light gleams in the piercing eye. The black alpaca coat, the fedora hat and the bow string tie still form a part of his raiment. Best of all the voice—that wonderful voice—still rings with its olden silvery peal. Bryan has become an American institution and his visit is always an event in the community. Vachel Lindsay, the Springfield poet has aptly described a typical scene of this kind in his poem "When Bryan Speaks":

"When Bryan speaks the town's a hive
From miles around the autos drive,
The sparrow chirps. The rooster crows
The place is kicking and alive.

When Bryan speaks the sky is ours
The wheat, the forests, and the flowers
And who is here to say us nay?
Fled are the ancient tyrant powers.

When Bryan speaks then I rejoice,
His is the strange, composite voice
Of many million singing souls.
Who makes world brotherhood their choice."

So we are honored today by the presence of the plain old shoe, the champion of good things always. The world feels his influence. America holds him affectionately. And why put off saying it: A grateful posterity will perpetuate his memory "in brass that breathes and struggles and stone that seems to speak."—Bloomington, Ill., Bulletin.

THE KILLING OF HUSBANDS

There seem to be two acceptable methods of obtaining a divorce in this country. One is by way of the chancery court, the other by way of a coroner's jury or criminal court.

The alternative is, of course, not for husbands but for wives. If the husband is sufficiently disagreeable or the wife sufficiently attractive, divorce for the latter through aid of a gun and a sympathetic jury seems the more certain and expeditious.

In the latest case the man seems to have been an ingrate and a brute. If his wife's report of their life and of his character is reasonably fair no one is likely to regret his departure.

But two questions present themselves from this as from preceding cases of the kind. Is the death penalty the proper punishment for infidelity or abuse in marriage? And if it is the proper penalty, is a wife entitled at her own discretion to execute it?

It seems that juries answer both these questions in the affirmative. Legislatures in fixing the death penalty for offenses have not yet adopted their theory but have applied the extreme penalty only to murder in the first degree, to treason, and in some states to one or two other offenses. Juries seem to approve its informal application to marital infidelity, to assault and battery of the domestic variety, or other masculine methods of making one's self a nuisance about the house.

In the latest case the wife had put up with neglect and abuse. The husband, if his story is complete, had done more than enough to forfeit her respect and love. He had also given legal grounds for divorce, but the wife was unwilling to take this exit from her ills. Her love remained and it might be suspected that love despised played its part in the final act of the drama.

Surely her case was pitiful, but it is wise to put what amounts to the stamp of prompt approval on this informal taking of human life? Justice will not require extreme punishment in cases which contain mitigating circumstances. But verdicts of this character virtually commission any excitable woman to make herself legislator, judge, jury, and executioner. The killing of husbands has become an indoor sport, and the privilege is extended to mistresses also. The husband is not heard. He is condemned ex parte and by the complainant, who thereupon denies appeal and removes him quickly beyond reach of it.

Doubtless this system is founded on a commendable emotion and aims at an ideal justice. Perhaps in many cases this ideal is attained as it would not be under the law. All the same, the method of private justice, familiar in primitive life, does not work well in the average, and progress has replaced it in older communities by law and its formalities as better safeguards of human rights.—Chicago Tribune.

FAVORITE ENTERTAINERS

In the death of Champ Clark a notable figure disappears from the chautauqua field. He had become very popular there. His style of address—a little unconventional and off-hand—had caught the fancy of chautauqua audiences. They responded to his everyday philosophies clothed in everyday terms. He made his points in a way that was immensely pleasing. Had he lived the season now opening would probably have been a prosperous one for him. Relieved of the cares of a legislator, he could have concentrated on the work of an entertainer.

Into the vacant place Thomas R. Marshall will probably step. Indeed, he is already on tour, and reasonably certain to make a good impression. He is something on the Clark order—quick, unstudied and independent. He is both fluent and witty. He had his training as a speaker on the stump in Indiana. Mr. Clark had his on the stump in Missouri. There is a likeness between the Wabash country and the Ozark country. They produce much the same sort of men, and back their favorite son in the same hearty way.

But still at the head of the chautauqua entertainers—the star, the topline—stand William J. Bryan. He established his supremacy years ago, and has never lost it. Other very interesting men have entered the field and flourished but none has ever shone quite so brilliantly as the orator of the Platte. Everything seems to be in his line. He talks equally well—at any rate, equally entertainingly—on politics, religion, sociology, the uplift, what you please. Name your subject, and he is right there with the goods.

And this thing has been going on without a season's break for a quarter century. A remarkable man! No wonder his friends swear by him as lustily as his enemies swear at him.—Washington Star.

BIBLE CLASS ENDS

(From the Miami Herald, April 4.)

Delivering his last Bible class address of the season yesterday morning at the Royal Palm park, William Jennings Bryan spoke before an audience which was so large that standing room was at a premium for several feet behind the benches.

The ever interesting orator spoke from the Golden Text, and on several occasions he was forced to stop until the tremendous applause subsided.

In closing Mr. Bryan stated that he was very sorry to see the class come to a close as he knew that the individuals who helped to make up the large Sunday gathering were very much interested in the good work and benefit of the sermons. He wished the gathering a very happy coming year and hoped that all would be present when the classes opened next season.

Next to the concerts by Pryor's band, the Bible class has been the finest attraction in Miami during the past season. On occasions there have been as many as five thousand persons present. The largest newspapers and many of the magazines have printed pictures of the class, saying that it was the most remarkable gathering in the country.

As an advertisement of Miami climate and open air possibilities the Bible class probably ranks ahead of the band concerts, as several other Florida towns have bands and it is pretty well understood that bands play in this state throughout the winter, but none has a distinctive meeting like the Sunday morning meetings in Royal Palm park.

The gathering of several thousand persons on a Sunday morning to listen to Bible teaching has been widely commented upon by the press of the country as being the most notable of all Florida innovations.

No doubt the presence of Mr. Bryan has added much to these occasions, and his widespread popularity has also unquestionably been the means of attracting as much favorable publicity.

THE FARMERS AROUSED

The following press dispatch would indicate that the farmers are aroused:

"Formation of the Farmers' Federal Tax League of America, which will oppose the federal sales tax, was announced today by Eugene Frey, of Argyle, Ill., secretary and treasurer of the organization. George F. Comings, former lieutenant-governor of Wisconsin, is president of the league. 'Powerful interests,' said Mr. Frey 'are preparing to shift further the burden of taxation upon the farmers and the farmers must organize to make felt their influence if this attempt is to be prevented.'"